

Subject: RE: [Caution External Sender] Re: [Caution External Sender] Re: [Caution External Sender] Re: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records
Date: Friday, September 4, 2026 at 4:38:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Amanda Prince
To: Mark Williams
CC: jworley@columbussheriff.com
Attachments: image005.jpg, image006.jpg, image007.jpg, image008.jpg, image009.jpg, image010.jpg, image001.jpg, image002.jpg, DOC090426-09042026155556.pdf, DOC090426-09042026155716.pdf, DOC090426-09042026155844.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Our email restricts the size of attachments to emails and additional scans shall follow. I will be looking into further compliance with your request and explanation of the response next week. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact with me.

Thank you,

Amanda B. Prince
County Attorney
Columbus County
127 West Webster Street
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472
910-642-5645



From: Mark Williams [mailto:mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com]

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 7:55 PM

To: Amanda Prince <aprice@columbusco.org>

Cc: info@columbussheriff.com

Subject: [Caution External Sender] Re: [Caution External Sender] Re: [Caution External Sender] Re: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records

Amanda,

Thank you — I appreciate you raising it with the Sheriff, and that's a reasonable path. The extension while your records person is back next week is fine with me; I'm glad to take the records on a rolling basis as they're gathered, and native CSV/Excel is perfect for the Flock audit data. The only thing I'd ask is that the preservation request in my prior notice stay in effect in the meantime.

Thanks again for moving this along — I'd much rather resolve it this way.

Respectfully,

~Mark

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RICE LAW, PLLC

RiceFamilyLaw.com



Mark Spencer Williams

Attorney

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From: Amanda Prince <aprince@columbusco.org>

Date: Friday, August 28, 2026 at 8:11 AM

To: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>

Cc: info@columbussheriff.com <info@columbussheriff.com>

Subject: RE: [Caution External Sender] Re: [Caution External Sender] Re: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records

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Good morning,

I discussed the request with the Sheriff. Your request will be fulfilled to the fullest extent through law. The individual who is capable of collecting all of the records you requested will return to work next week. If you have any issue with this extension in time, please let me know.

Thank you,

Amanda B. Prince
County Attorney
Columbus County
127 West Webster Street
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472
910-642-5645



From: Mark Williams [<mailto:mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 9:47 PM

To: Amanda Prince <aprince@columbusco.org>

Cc: info@columbussheriff.com; mjorgensen@columbusco.org

Subject: [Caution External Sender] Re: [Caution External Sender] Re: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records

Amanda,

Thank you for forwarding my August 20 request to the Sheriff's Office — I appreciate you moving it along. I'm writing ahead of the August 29 date I

set, both to add context and to offer a way to resolve this without litigation for anyone.

It has now been about fifty-seven days since we filed on July 1, with no production and no substantive response from the Office. I'd ask the Office to weigh that against what has happened everywhere else this request has gone.

The clearest comparison is right in Columbus County. The **Whiteville Police Department** received the identical request on the very same day, July 1. It produced in full — the Flock contract, the adopted ALPR policy, the invoices, and all four months of Flock audits, including the Network Audit that names the outside agencies searching its cameras. Chief Rockenbach did not treat it as a burden; he treated it as the law, and finished in about three weeks. Two Columbus County law-enforcement agencies got the same request on the same day. One has answered completely; the other has said nothing.

Whiteville is not an outlier. On the same vendor platform, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, NC A&T, UNC Pembroke, UNC Charlotte, and Appalachian State have all produced these records — several within days — and Buncombe County released the searching-agency field as well. Statewide, this is now a routine export that agencies produce on request.

And the program is not confidential. On August 26, Sheriff Rogers described the Office's cameras in detail to WECT — the number of readers, the one taken from a pole in Tabor City, the ninety-day retention. I welcome the public candor; it also confirms that responsive records plainly exist. But discussing a program with a reporter is not the same as producing its records under Chapter 132. In the law, transparency means the second thing.

So my August 20 request stands: by **August 29, 2026**, I ask that the Office either **(a) produce the responsive records** (rolling production is welcome; native CSV/Excel is fine for the audit data), **(b) certify item-by-item, after a diligent search, that no responsive record exists**, or **(c) state the specific statutory basis for anything withheld** and produce the segregable remainder under § 132-6(c). The preservation request in my prior notice remains in effect — no responsive data should be deleted or overwritten while this is pending (§ 132-3).

If the Office does not intend to produce, I'd ask you to put one question to it directly, in the spirit of resolving this short of court: **will the Sheriff's Office agree to voluntary pre-litigation mediation of this public-records dispute under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-38.3E?** I would genuinely rather sit down and work through any concern the Office has than file suit. Please let me know in writing by August 29 whether the Office will (1) produce, or (2) agree to mediation.

If the answer to both is no, the remaining recourse is an action to compel under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-9, with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees available under § 132-9(c). I would much prefer not to be there — Whiteville shows there's a faster, better path, and it runs through the records rather than the newsroom.

Thank you again for your help.

Respectfully,
~Mark

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Amanda Prince <aprince@columbusco.org>

Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 at 10:19 AM

To: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>

Cc: info@columbussheriff.com <info@columbussheriff.com>; mjorgensen@columbusco.org <mjorgensen@columbusco.org>

Subject: RE: [Caution External Sender] Re: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records

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Good morning,

I will forward to the Sheriff's Office.

Thank you,

Amanda Prince

From: Mark Williams [<mailto:mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 11:46 AM

To: aprince@columbusco.org

Cc: info@columbussheriff.com; mjorgensen@columbusco.org

Subject: [Caution External Sender] Re: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records

Amanda,

I'm following up again on the public-records request we filed with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office on July 1, 2026 for its ALPR / Flock records — vendor contracts; the ALPR policy or SOP; camera counts and the areas they cover; the data-retention schedule; data-sharing agreements and MOUs (including with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, the SBI, ICE, CBP, and any nationwide lookup network); the Flock Organization Audit, Network Audit, and Event Log for the most recent three months; misuse or discipline records; and related items. My August 5 note asked for a status by that Friday. I have received no response.

It has now been roughly fifty days. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(a) requires production "as promptly as possible," and WECT confirmed the Office's Flock contract in June 2026, so responsive records exist. If the Office operates no ALPR or Flock system, a written "no records" statement is itself a sufficient answer.

Accordingly, I ask that by **Friday, August 29, 2026** the Office do one of the following: (a) produce the responsive records — rolling production is welcome, and native CSV/Excel is fine for the audit data; (b) certify, after a diligent search, that no responsive record exists, item by item; or (c) state the specific statutory basis for each item and field it withholds, producing all reasonably segregable non-exempt portions under § 132-6(c). Because Flock audit data is subject to automated retention and purge schedules, I also ask that the Office preserve all responsive records pending its response — destroying public records outside an approved retention schedule is independently unlawful under § 132-3.

Please advise the County's position.

Respectfully,

~Mark

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From: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 1:15 PM
To: aprinced@columbusco.org <aprinced@columbusco.org>
Cc: info@columbussheriff.com <info@columbussheriff.com>
Subject: FW: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records
 Amanda,

I hope you are well.

On July 1, 2026 we filed a public-records request with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office (see below). The request seeks the Office's ALPR / Flock records: any vendor contracts; the ALPR policy or SOP; camera counts and the areas they cover; the data-retention schedule; data-sharing agreements and MOUs (including with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, the SBI, ICE, CBP, and any nationwide lookup network); the Flock Organization and Network Audit for the most recent three months; and misuse or discipline records.

WECT confirmed the Office's Flock contract in June 2026, so responsive records exist. More than thirty-five days have now passed with no response. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6 requires production "as promptly as possible."

Would you kindly update me on the status of the request by Friday? Most agencies have responded in less than 18 days.

I am happy to accept a rolling production.

With all best wishes,

~Mark

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From: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 7:26 AM
To: info@columbussheriff.com <info@columbussheriff.com>
Subject: Public Records Request — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) / Flock Safety records

Sheriff Rogers,

Under the North Carolina Public Records Law, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1 et seq., I request copies of the following records concerning the Office's automated license plate reader (ALPR) program, including any Flock Safety system. Please treat electronic copies (native PDF, CSV, or Excel) as acceptable and preferred.

1. **Every vendor contract**, order form, quote, and renewal for ALPR cameras or services — including any agreement with Flock Safety, Inc. — and all amendments.
2. The Office's **ALPR policy, SOP, or general order** governing camera use, access, and auditing.
3. All **data-sharing agreements and MOUs**, including with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, other North Carolina agencies, the State Bureau of Investigation, ICE, CBP, and any nationwide lookup or "hot list" network.
4. The Flock **Organization Audit, Network Audit, and Event Log** for the most recent three complete months (**April–June 2026**), in native export format.
5. The **current number of ALPR cameras** the Office operates and the general areas they cover.
6. The **data-retention schedule** and any preservation or deletion settings.
7. All **invoices, purchase orders, and payment records** for ALPR cameras or services.
8. Any records of **misuse, audit exceptions, or discipline** relating to ALPR searches.
9. **Communications with the vendor** regarding data sharing, network configuration, or federal access.

If the Office does not operate any ALPR or Flock system, please confirm that in writing — a "no records" response is itself a sufficient answer to items 1–9.

I ask to inspect these records at no cost and to receive electronic copies. If any portion is withheld, please cite the specific statutory basis and produce the remainder. Please acknowledge receipt.

Respectfully,
Mark Spencer Williams
Rice Law, PLLC — Wilmington, NC

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